

CASPeR

U N I V E R S I T Y O F U T A H

CENTER

The Center for Alternate Strategies of Parasite Removal (CASPeR) is preparing to commercialize a safe, nontoxic and rapid treatment for Pediculosis (head lice), a multibillion-dollar, increasingly resistant problem afflicting some 25% of children by the time they are teenagers.

TECHNOLOGY

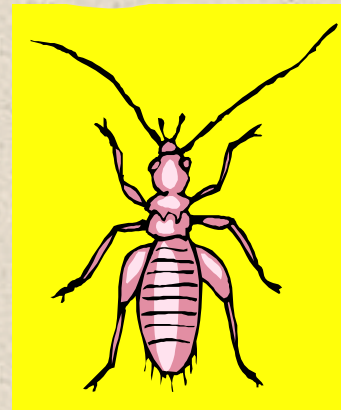
CASPeR has developed a device - the LouseBuster™ - is a revolutionary new approach for eradicating head lice. It is a non-chemical approach that controls lice by rapidly desiccating (drying) them out with blasts of warm air applied to the scalp. Lice and their eggs (nits), which are glued to the hair, are vulnerable to desiccation because of their high surface to volume ratio. The LouseBuster™ blows more than twice as much air as a standard blow dryer, but at a temperature of only 140°F (blow dryers operate at 150-160°F). It kills lice remarkably quickly - normally in less than 30 seconds. In addition to killing hatched lice, the LouseBuster™ also kills eggs, which shampoos have never been able to do. Shampoos require two applications, 7-10 days apart, in order to kill eggs that hatch after the first treatment. In short, the LouseBuster™ represents a potential "magic bullet" solution to head lice that differs completely from previous methods.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Center submitted a full patent application in May '05. The Center also created a LouseBuster™ beta prototype for human use including the development of a disposable hand piece attachment for the LouseBuster™. The Center also conducted significant human clinical testing of the LouseBuster™ alpha prototype with success approaching a 100% cure rate. The Center also continued to expand relationships with local schools, clinics and other entities. During the year the Center treated about 100 families in the Salt Lake Valley for head lice, thus alleviating significant trauma for these families, and their schools. The LouseBuster treatments allowed children to return to school earlier than would have otherwise been possible, benefiting schools and families.

THINK TANK

What if there was...



A safe, non-toxic way to thoroughly kill head lice in a 1 hour, non-chemical treatment? What if that were to help the 25% of children in the U.S. who get head lice before they're teens?

Dale H. Clayton
University of Utah
257 South 1400 East
Salt Lake City, Utah
84112-0840
801-581-6482
clayton@biology.utah.edu